

Kentucky Adult Education

What is Kentucky Adult Education?

Kentucky Adult Education is a system of adult education programs in all 120 counties that helps Kentuckians prepare for employment and postsecondary education through GED instruction, family literacy, workforce education, reading instruction, and English as a Second Language classes. Kentucky Adult Education is recognized as a national model.

Why is it important?

A skilled and educated workforce is critical to attracting and creating jobs and moving Kentucky forward. However, many Kentuckians are left behind because they do not have a high school diploma or the literacy skills necessary to compete. Adult education is the gateway to employment and postsecondary education, which lead to a higher standard of living, a better quality of life, better educated children, and a more prosperous Kentucky.

How many Kentuckians benefit?

In 2000, the Kentucky General Assembly passed the *Kentucky Adult Education Act*. As a result, enrollment has grown from 51,000 students in 2000 to nearly 125,000 students in 2005, and the percentage of GED graduates enrolling in postsecondary education has increased from 12 percent of the 1998 graduates to 19 percent of the GED class of 2002. In 2005:

- 50,000 Kentuckians in 2,000 businesses upgraded skills in workforce education.
- 9,800 Kentuckians earned their GED.
- 9,100 inmates enrolled in corrections education in prisons and local jails.
- 7,200 adults studied online.
- 4,400 parents and their children learned together in family literacy.
- 4,100 students enrolled in English as a Second Language classes.
- 1,300 adult education students earned Kentucky Employability Certificates.

What is the Council's request?

The Council seeks \$4 million in new funding in FY 2006-07 and an additional \$2 million in FY 2007-08 to continue the momentum gained in the Kentucky Adult Education system.

Why is the funding needed?

The Council's goal of 300,000 students in adult education programs by 2010 requires a significant financial investment. It is an investment in Kentucky's future that will be used to continue aggressive statewide strategies and build capacity in the county adult education programs focusing on enrollment, GED attainment, employment, and transitioning students to postsecondary education.

How will the funding be used?

Nearly 90 percent of funding for county programs supports instructional costs for personnel, materials, and technology. County adult education programs cannot charge tuition or fees for service, do not have ongoing fundraising campaigns, and do not have endowments. Federal funding has declined nearly 13 percent in three years. It is clear that the adult education system has reached its capacity and cannot continue the growth produced over the past five years without additional resources.



Photo source: Kentucky Adult Education

One Mission: Better Lives for Kentucky's People